

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 are rejected. Claims 1 and 6 are amended. Claims 3 and 8 are canceled. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 remain.

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

**I. 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph**

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a semi-crystalline structure when boron (B) is present in the carbon shell, does not reasonably provide enablement for such a semi-crystalline structure for the other metal components. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections for claims 1, 3-6 and 8-10 are respectfully requested.

**II. Claims Not Rejected Over Prior Art**

Applicant notes that claims 1 and 6 are amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejections and are not rejected over prior art.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1, 4-6 and 9-10, as they now stands, are allowable for the reasons given above.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely 1, 4-6 and 9-10, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 16, 2006.

  
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